



# CRUISING TOPICS

By Annie Otness and Kim Klaka

**The Cruising Section organise a wide variety of interesting Topic Nights that are very popular not only with all sections of the Club, but also with sailors and boaters attracted from other Clubs. We usually gather together before the event for a friendly meal and then socialise afterwards.**

A few of our topics this year included:

- The hands-on fireworks evening, officially the Flares and Fire extinguishers night, where everyone has real-time experience with this vital safety equipment that could save your boat and your life. This is an important opportunity to practise these skills. It was presented this year by the Fremantle Sea Rescue Group.
- Another safety event was led by YA Safety Instructor Manfred Speicher, who demonstrated the use of life jackets, and gave an introduction to the essential Sea Safety and Survival Course he runs a several times a year through Yachting WA.
- The Cruising Section's most recent circumnavigator Robert Morales gave an insightful and inspiring account of his voyage around the globe, much of it single-handed.
- There were over fifty gathered to listen to "The Great Debate - Monohulls vs Multihulls". The result was a draw, and everyone gained insight into the pros and cons of each type of cruising boat.

Whilst the Club renovations were underway we transferred the Topic Nights to the Dinghy Clubhouse, where collaboration with the Dinghy Section provided an ideal venue for another two events:

- The topic of Choosing your Dinghy enabled us to consider the options of inflatables, folding boats and hard hull tenders. Five different products were on display, including the Torqeedo electric outboard motor and the new West Australian Quickboat.
- The final topic for the season was an enlightening series of presentations from the Centre for Marine Science and Technology of Curtin University (they are the group that operate out of the demountables behind the Dinghy Clubhouse). Topics ranged from analysing whale songs to measuring performance of Laser dinghies, via acoustic tracking of sharks and mapping the seabed.

Cruising Section Topic Nights are held on the third Thursday of every month, everybody is welcome. Read your Around the Buoys newsletter each week for details.

